UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,047	03/14/2001	Tadashi Ohashi	1341.1089/JDH	1660

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EXAMINER
KLINGER, SCOTT M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2153	

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
		09/805,047	OHASHI, TADASHI
Office Action Summary		Examiner	Art Unit
		Scott M. Klinger	2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 March 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-27 are pending.

Priority

A claim for foreign priority has been made. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file. The effective filing date for subject matter in the application is 2 October 2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 25, the claim depends on itself, which renders the claim indefinite.

Regarding claim 26, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 12-14, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yasue (U.S. Patent Number 6,289,345, hereinafter "Yasue"). Yasue discloses design information management system having a bulk data server and a metadata server. Yasue shows,

In referring to claims 1 and 27,

- A transmitting unit that transmits an abstract and storage location information of design/manufacturing information registered in said web servers, to an index server during an idle time of the web servers:

  "Each workstation 30 which accesses design data has a component constitution information definition processing means 31 which defines the designed components or devices constitution information, i.e., what subparts each device or component is constructed from. An object information/attribute information definition processor 32 defines the designed object's information and associated attribute information. A model data import processor 33 imports/transfers designed model data from the workstation 30 to the bulk server 20." (Yasue, col. 5, lines 27-36)

  Yasue, Fig. **3B** shows the abstract and storage location information (metadata) that is transmitted to the index server (Yasue, Fig. **1**, element **10**).

- An automatic registering unit that automatically registers an abstract and storage location information transmitted from said web servers by said transmitting unit, into said index server:

  "During implementing/updating of the model data, management information is registered by the metaserver, and model data is stored in the bulk servers." (Yasue, abstract, lines 14-17)

In referring to claims 2 and 13,

- Said transmitting unit is a register processing agent that transmits an abstract and storage location information of the design/manufacturing information:

  Yasue, col. 5, lines 27-36 (see full quote above), *Yasue, abstract, lines 14-17* (see full quote above)

In referring to claims 3 and 14,

- An abstract generating unit that generates an abstract of the design/manufacturing information:

  Yasue, col. 5, lines 27-36 (see full quote above)

- A storage location information generating unit that generates storage location information showing a storage location of the design/manufacturing information; an information transmitting unit that transmits an abstract generated by said abstract generating unit and storage location information generated by said storage location information generating unit respectively, to said index server during an idle time of said web servers:

  Yasue, Fig. **3B** shows the abstract and storage location information (metadata) that is transmitted to the index server (Yasue, Fig. **1**, element **10**).

In referring to claim 12,

- A transmission step of transmitting an abstract and storage location information of design/manufacturing information registered in said web servers, to an index server during an idle time of said web servers:

  Yasue, col. 5, lines 27-36 (see full quote above)

  Yasue, Fig. **3B** shows the abstract and storage location information (metadata) that is transmitted to the index server (Yasue, Fig. **1**, element **10**).

- An automatic registration step of automatically registering an abstract and storage location information transmitted from web servers by said transmitting unit, into said index server:

  Yasue, abstract, lines 14-17 (see full quote above)

Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hazama et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,539,399, hereinafter "Hazama"). Hazama discloses stand-alone data management system for facilitating sheet metal part production. Hazama shows,

In referring to claims 1, 12, and 27,

- A transmitting unit that transmits an abstract and storage location information of design/manufacturing information registered in said web servers, to an index server during an idle time of the web servers, and an automatic registering unit that automatically registers an abstract and storage location information transmitted from said web servers by said transmitting unit, into said index server:

  "The useful information originates from the files created by the CAM process 20. When the user saves data files to the database 42, the information is removed from the files and stored in the index in binary format." (Hazama, col. 6, lines 16-20)

  "the index 64 may also store the names and the locations of the various files related to each part." (Hazama, col. 6, lines 52-53)

In referring to claims 2 and 13,

- Said transmitting unit is a register processing agent that transmits an abstract and storage location information of the design/manufacturing information:

  "The index 64 is a file that facilitates displaying all of the sheet metal parts in the database 42 in addition to other useful information. Thus, the index 64 includes a data structure for each part that stores a virtual folder hierarchy as well as useful information related to the part." (Hazama, col. 6, lines 2-6)

  Hazama, col. 6, lines 16-20 (see full quote above)

In referring to claims 3 and 14,

- An abstract generating unit that generates an abstract of the design/manufacturing information:

Hazama, col. 6, lines 16-20 (see full quote above)

- A storage location information generating unit that generates storage location information showing a storage location of the design/manufacturing information:

   Hazama, col. 6, lines 52-53 (see full quote above); a system that stores location information inherently implies a means for generating said location information.

- An information transmitting unit that transmits an abstract generated by said abstract generating unit and storage location information generated by said storage location information generating unit respectively, to said index server during an idle time of said web servers:

   Hazama, col. 6, lines 16-20 (see full quote above)

In referring to claims 5 and 16,

- Said storage location information generating unit generates URLs as addresses of said web servers on the Internet:

   "According to a preferred embodiment, additional servers may be located remotely from the network. For example, the user may access the other servers via the Internet. If the user would like to access the remote server through the Internet, the user can simply type in the IP address of the server and the client will then connect to the server, thus giving the client access to all of the data on that server. ... Any servers connected via the Internet are viewed as web pages." (Hazama, col. 10, lines 18-28)

In referring to claims 6 and 17,

- A first repository that stores an abstract generated by said abstract generating unit and storage location information generated by said storage location information generating unit, and transmits the abstract and the storage location information stored in the first repository to said index server during an idle time of said web servers:

   Hazama, col. 6, lines 16-20 (see full quote above), A system that removes abstract data from data files and stores it in an index server inherently implies the data is stored in a first repository before transmission to said index server

In referring to claims 7 and 18,

- Said automatic registering unit is a registration accept processing agent that automatically registers the abstract and the storage location information transmitted from said web servers by said transmitting unit, to said index server:

  Hazama, col. 6, lines 2-6 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 8,

- A second repository that stores an abstract and storage location information that have been transmitted from said transmitting unit:

  An index server that stores abstract and storage location information inherently implies a repository to store the data

- A storage unit that stores the abstract and the storage location information into the second repository during an idle time of said index server:

  It is inherently implied in an index server that stores abstract and storage location information into a repository that the storage would be performed when the index server's CPU is not busy

- An ontology restructuring unit that restructures the consistency of the ontology of a hierarchical structure relating to the design/manufacturing information and a posting unit that posts to said web servers a message that an abstract and storage location information of the design/manufacturing information have been stored in said second repository:

  "According to a preferred embodiment, the medium also stores an index that includes a virtual folder hierarchy that is updated after every successful operation. The index may include useful information associated with each identifier." (Hazama, col. 3, lines 3-6)

In referring to claims 9 and 20,

- The abstract and the storage location information of the design/manufacturing information are transferred between said first repository and said second repository by inter-repository communications:

The transmission of abstract and storage location information from one computer to another inherently implies inter-repository communications

In referring to claims 10 and 21,

- An overview unit that has a bird's-eye view of the design/manufacturing information based on an abstract and storage location information of the design/manufacturing information registered in said index server:

  Hazama, Fig. **8** *"shows an exemplary screen of a stand alone manager, according to an aspect of the present invention"* (Hazama, col. 3, lines 66-67), The stand alone manager has a bird's-eye view of the design/manufacturing information based on abstract and storage location information of the design/manufacturing information registered in said index server.

In referring to claims 11 and 22.

- A retrieving unit that retrieves design/manufacturing information based on an abstract and storage location information of the design/manufacturing information registered in said index server:

  Hazama, Fig. **8** shows the index servers listings and the ability to retrieve the data from the other server

In referring to claim 13,

- The transmission step is a step at which a register processing agent transmits an abstract and storage location information of the design/manufacturing information:

  Hazama, col. 6, lines 16-20 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 14,

- An abstract generation step of generating an abstract of the design/manufacturing information:

Hazama, col. 6, lines 16-20 (see full quote above)

- A storage location information generation step of generating storage location information that shows a storage location of the design/manufacturing information:
  Hazama, col. 6, lines 52-53 (see full quote above); a system that stores location information inherently implies a means for generating said location information.

- An information transmission step of transmitting an abstract generated at the abstract generation step and storage location information generated at the storage location information generation step, to said index server during an idle time of said web server:
  Hazama, col. 6, lines 16-20 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 16,

- The storage location information generation step is for generating URLs as addresses of said web servers on the Internet:
  Hazama, col. 10, lines 18-28 (see full quote above), in a system where servers are viewed as web pages it is inherently implied that the links to said servers are URLs.

In referring to claim 19,

- A storage step of storing an abstract and storage location information of the design/manufacturing information into a second repository during an idle time of said index server:
  It is inherently implied in an index server that stores abstract and storage location information into a repository that the storage would be performed when the index server's CPU is not busy

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasue in view of Copperman el al. (U.S. Patent Number, 6,711,585, hereinafter "Copperman"). Although Yasue shows substantial features of the claimed invention, including the system of claims 3 and 14 (see 102 rejections above), Yasue does not show converting the abstract data into an XML format. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Yasue as evidenced by Copperman.

In analogous art, Copperman discloses system and method for implementing a knowledge management system. Copperman shows said abstract generating unit converts the design/manufacturing information into a text, and then converts this text into an XML format, thereby to generate an abstract of the text and the XML format: *"As shown in step 906, the next step is to convert the documents into XML marked text as described above in the portion of the document that addressed autocontextualization."* (Copperman, col. 24, lines 58-61)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Yasue so as to convert the abstract data to XML, such as taught by Copperman, in order to store and retrieve the data in an orderly manner.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasue in view of Govindarajan et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,208,659, hereinafter "Govindarajan"). Yasue shows substantial features of the claimed invention including:

- A transmission step of transmitting an abstract and storage location information of design/manufacturing information registered in said web servers, to an index server during an idle time of said web servers:

  Yasue, col. 5, lines 27-36 (see full quote above)

  Yasue, Fig. **3B** shows the abstract and storage location information (metadata) that is transmitted to the index server (Yasue, Fig. **1**, element **10**).

- An automatic registration step of automatically registering an abstract and storage location information transmitted from web servers by said transmitting unit, into said index server:

    Yasue, abstract, lines 14-17 (see full quote above)

However, Yasue does not show the information retrieving method is automatically carried out when registered information is dropped onto a registration icon prepared at the registration side. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Yasue as evidenced by Govindarajan.

In analogous art, Govindarajan discloses data processing system and method for providing personal information in a communication network. Govindarajan shows the information retrieving method is automatically carried out when registered information is dropped onto a registration icon prepared at the registration side: *"After the user "drag and drops" the document onto the inactive icon, the web card database/server determines whether the user desires to store the message to be forwarded at a later time in a step 1206."* (Govindarajan, col. 17, lines 17-20)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Yasue so as to use graphical icons to carry out the retrieval of data, such as taught by Govindarajan, in order to utilize an intuitive interface.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasue in view of Tanaka (U.S. Patent Number 5,732,264, hereinafter "Tanaka"). Yasue shows substantial features of the claimed invention including:

- A transmission step of transmitting an abstract and storage location information of design/manufacturing information registered in said web servers, to an index server during an idle time of said web servers:

    Yasue, col. 5, lines 27-36 (see full quote above)

    Yasue, Fig. 3B shows the abstract and storage location information (metadata) that is transmitted to the index server (Yasue, Fig. 1, element 10).

- An automatic registration step of automatically registering an abstract and storage location information transmitted from web servers by said transmitting unit, into said index server:

  Yasue, abstract, lines 14-17 (see full quote above)

- Registered design/manufacturing information is managed in a repository based on a given drawing number system:

  "The location information of the model data and constitution information regarding the model data (single stage/multi-stage component constitution, object drawing number, and the like) are stored in the metadatabase 11 on the common metaserver 10." (Yasue, col. 4, lines 32-36)

However, Yasue is silent as to how the system handles the data when there is no suitable drawing number given. Yasue does not show generating a drawing number from a drawing number or an abstract in a higher-order system if no drawing number exists. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Yasue as evidenced by Tanaka.

In analogous art, Tanaka discloses an information management system and method for managing, processing storing and displaying attribute information of object information. Tanaka shows generating a drawing number from a drawing number or an abstract in a higher-order system: *"Further, when object information is a drawing, drawing numbers are assigned by hierarchical classification codes such as a section, a subsection, a class, a subclass, etc. on the basis of purposes or functions as attribute information, and content of the classification codes is sequentially displayed hierarchically by the display and processing device to select and query the drawing. The drawing numbers are properly and uniformly used without much trouble."* (Tanaka, col. 10, lines 32-39)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Yasue so as to generate a drawing number from a drawing number or an abstract in a higher-order system if no drawing number exists, such as taught by Tanaka, in order to number the drawings in a logical and predictable manner.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott M. Klinger whose telephone number is (703) 305-8285. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Scott M. Klinger
Examiner
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